

11/21/00  
10966 U.S. PTO

11-22-00

EF 409652362 US

4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

Date: 11-21-00

10714 U.S. PTO  
09/11/05  
11/21/00

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of Inventor(s):  
**Nathan Eugene Davis**

For: **Method and Apparatus for Using A Printing System to Transmit Data to a Server**


Enclosed are also:

- ☒ 21 Pages of Specification including an Abstract
- ☒ 5 Pages of Claims
- ☒ 12 Sheet(s) of Drawings
- ☒ A Declaration and Power of Attorney
- ☒ Form PTO 1595 and assignment of the invention to IBM Corporation

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

FOR	Number Filed		Number Extra		Rate		Basic Fee (\$710)
Total Claims	21	-20 =	1	X	\$ 18	=	\$18
Independent Claims	5	-3 =	2	X	\$ 80	=	\$160
Multiple Dependent Claims	0			X	\$270	=	\$0
<b>Total Filing Fee</b>							<b>\$888</b>

- ☒ Please charge \$888 to IBM Corporation, Deposit Account No. 09-0447.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with the communication or credit any over payment to IBM Corporation, Deposit Account No. 09-0447. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37CFR § 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37CFR § 1.17.

Respectfully,  
  
David A. Mims, Jr.  
Reg. No. 32,708  
Intellectual Property Law Dept.  
IBM Corporation  
11400 Burnet Road 4054  
Austin, Texas 75758  
Telephone: (512) 823-0950

09/11/05 11:21:00

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A PRINTING SYSTEM TO  
TRANSMIT DATA TO A SERVER  
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

5   **1. Technical Field:**

          The present invention relates generally to an improved data processing system, and in particular to a method and apparatus for transferring data. Still more particularly, the present invention provides a method and  
10   apparatus for transmitting legacy data to a destination.

**2. Description of Related Art:**

15       The Internet, also referred to as an "internetwork", is a set of computer networks, possibly dissimilar, joined together by means of gateways that handle data transfer and the conversion of messages from the sending network to the protocols used by the receiving network  
20   (with packets if necessary). When capitalized, the term "Internet" refers to the collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols.

          The Internet has become a cultural fixture as a source of both information and entertainment. Many  
25   businesses are creating Internet sites as an integral part of their marketing efforts, informing consumers of the products or services offered by the business or providing other information seeking to engender brand loyalty. Many federal, state, and local government  
30   agencies are also employing Internet sites for informational purposes, particularly agencies which must

09747533-113100

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

interact with virtually all segments of society such as the Internal Revenue Service and secretaries of state. Providing informational guides and/or searchable databases of online public records may reduce operating  
5 costs. Further, the Internet is becoming increasingly popular as a medium for commercial transactions.

Currently, the most commonly employed method of transferring data over the Internet is to employ the World Wide Web environment, also called simply "the Web".  
10 Other Internet resources exist for transferring information, such as File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and Gopher, but have not achieved the popularity of the Web. In the Web environment, servers and clients effect data transaction using the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP),  
15 a known protocol for handling the transfer of various data files (e.g., text, still graphic images, audio, motion video, etc.). The information in various data files is formatted for presentation to a user by a standard page description language, the Hypertext Markup  
20 Language (HTML). In addition to basic presentation formatting, HTML allows developers to specify "links" to other Web resources identified by a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). A URL is a special syntax identifier defining a communications path to specific information.  
25 Each logical block of information accessible to a client, called a "page" or a "Web page", is identified by a URL. The URL provides a universal, consistent method for finding and accessing this information, not necessarily for the user, but mostly for the user's Web "browser". A  
30 browser is a program capable of submitting a request for information identified by an identifier, such as, for example, a URL. A user may enter a domain name through a

0971 JEE 112100

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

graphical user interface (GUI) for the browser to access  
a source of content. The domain name is automatically  
converted to the Internet Protocol (IP) address by a  
domain name system (DNS), which is a service that  
5 translates the symbolic name entered by the user into an  
IP address by looking up the domain name in a database.

The Internet also is widely used to transfer  
applications to users using browsers. With respect to  
commerce on the Web, individual consumers and business  
10 use the Web to purchase various goods and services. In  
offering goods and services, some companies offer goods  
and services solely on the Web while others use the Web  
to extend their reach.

Many businesses on the Internet use commercially  
15 available packages, such as accounting packages. These  
packages are typically directed towards consumers and  
small businesses and do not provide easy access to data  
or an ability to transmit the data to other systems. As  
these businesses participate in business-to-business  
20 transactions on the Internet, this deficiency places them  
at a disadvantage. For example, some suppliers or  
distributors offer discounts for electronic invoices.  
With the presently available commercial packages,  
generating an electronic invoice for a supplier requires  
25 much effort because these packages do not provide an  
ability to transmit data to other non-compatible software  
systems. Presently, these businesses must use custom  
software specifically written to generate electronic  
invoices or generate them by hand.

30 Therefore, it would be advantageous to have an  
improved method and apparatus for transmitting data from  
these more limited consumer or small business grade

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

programs to a destination such as a server.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

5       The present invention provides a method and apparatus in a data processing system for transferring printer data. A printer data stream is received. A format is identified for the printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream. Data is  
10       extracted from the printer data stream to form extracted data. The extracted data is formatted into a format for a specific destination to form formatted data. The formatted data is transmitted to the destination.

15

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the  
5 invention are set forth in the appended claims. The  
invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of  
use, further objectives and advantages thereof, will best  
be understood by reference to the following detailed  
description of an illustrative embodiment when read in  
10 conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

**Figure 1** is a pictorial representation of a network  
of data processing systems in which the present invention  
may be implemented;

15 **Figure 2** is a block diagram of a data processing  
system that may be implemented as a server in accordance  
with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 3** is a block diagram illustrating a data  
processing system in accordance with a preferred  
20 embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 4** is a diagram illustrating components used  
to transmit data from an application to a destination  
using a printer driver subsystem in accordance with a  
preferred embodiment of the present invention;

25 **Figure 5** is an illustration of an invoice processed  
by the mechanism of the present invention in accordance  
with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 6** illustrates a printer data stream from  
which data is extracted by a data extraction object in  
30 accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
invention;

05743634 1100

Figure 7 is an illustration of a pattern used for data extraction in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 9** is an illustration of a data structure containing data extracted from a printer data stream in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 11 is a flowchart of a process used for extracting data in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

20



Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the figures, Figure 1 depicts  
5 a pictorial representation of a network of data  
processing systems in which the present invention may be  
implemented. Network data processing system 100 is a  
network of computers in which the present invention may  
be implemented. Network data processing system 100  
10 contains a network 102, which is the medium used to  
provide communications links between various devices and  
computers connected together within network data  
processing system 100. Network 102 may include  
connections, such as wire, wireless communication links,  
15 or fiber optic cables.

In the depicted example, a server 104 is connected  
to network 102 along with storage unit 106. In addition,  
clients 108, 110, and 112 also are connected to network  
102. These clients 108, 110, and 112 may be, for  
20 example, personal computers or network computers. In the  
depicted example, server 104 provides data, such as boot  
files, operating system images, and applications to  
clients 108-112. Clients 108, 110, and 112 are clients  
to server 104. Network data processing system 100 may  
25 include additional servers, clients, and other devices  
not shown. In the depicted example, network data  
processing system 100 is the Internet with network 102  
representing a worldwide collection of networks and  
gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols to  
30 communicate with one another. At the heart of the  
Internet is a backbone of high-speed data communication

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

lines between major nodes or host computers, consisting of thousands of commercial, government, educational and other computer systems that route data and messages. Of course, network data processing system 100 also may be  
5 implemented as a number of different types of networks, such as for example, an intranet, a local area network (LAN), or a wide area network (WAN). **Figure 1** is intended as an example, and not as an architectural limitation for the present invention.

10 Referring to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of a data processing system that may be implemented as a server, such as server 104 in **Figure 1**, is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Data processing system 200 may be a symmetric  
15 multiprocessor (SMP) system including a plurality of processors 202 and 204 connected to system bus 206. Alternatively, a single processor system may be employed. Also connected to system bus 206 is memory controller/cache 208, which provides an interface to  
20 local memory 209. I/O bus bridge 210 is connected to system bus 206 and provides an interface to I/O bus 212. Memory controller/cache 208 and I/O bus bridge 210 may be integrated as depicted.

Peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus bridge  
25 214 connected to I/O bus 212 provides an interface to PCI local bus 216. A number of modems may be connected to PCI bus 216. Typical PCI bus implementations will support four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors. Communications links to network computers 108-112 in  
30 **Figure 1** may be provided through modem 218 and network adapter 220 connected to PCI local bus 216 through add-in

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

boards.

Additional PCI bus bridges 222 and 224 provide interfaces for additional PCI buses 226 and 228, from which additional modems or network adapters may be supported. In this manner, data processing system 200 allows connections to multiple network computers. A memory-mapped graphics adapter 230 and hard disk 232 may also be connected to I/O bus 212 as depicted, either directly or indirectly.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware depicted in Figure 2 may vary. For example, other peripheral devices, such as optical disk drives and the like, also may be used in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted. The depicted example is not meant to imply architectural limitations with respect to the present invention.

The data processing system depicted in Figure 2 may be, for example, an IBM RISC/System 6000 system, a product of International Business Machines Corporation in Armonk, New York, running the Advanced Interactive Executive (AIX) operating system.

With reference now to Figure 3, a block diagram illustrating a data processing system is depicted in which the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system 300 is an example of a client computer. Data processing system 300 employs a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus architecture. Although the depicted example employs a PCI bus, other bus architectures such as Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) and Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) may be used. Processor 302 and main memory 304 are connected to PCI

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

09717335 "1100

local bus 306 through PCI bridge 308. PCI bridge 308 also may include an integrated memory controller and cache memory for processor 302. Additional connections to PCI local bus 306 may be made through direct component interconnection or through add-in boards. In the depicted example, local area network (LAN) adapter 310, SCSI host bus adapter 312, and expansion bus interface 314 are connected to PCI local bus 306 by direct component connection. In contrast, audio adapter 316, graphics adapter 318, and audio/video adapter 319 are connected to PCI local bus 306 by add-in boards inserted into expansion slots. Expansion bus interface 314 provides a connection for a keyboard and mouse adapter 320, modem 322, and additional memory 324. Small computer system interface (SCSI) host bus adapter 312 provides a connection for hard disk drive 326, tape drive 328, and CD-ROM drive 330. Typical PCI local bus implementations will support three or four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors.

20 An operating system runs on processor 302 and is used to coordinate and provide control of various components within data processing system 300 in Figure 3. The operating system may be a commercially available operating system, such as Windows 2000, which is available from Microsoft Corporation. An object oriented programming system such as Java may run in conjunction with the operating system and provide calls to the operating system from Java programs or applications executing on data processing system 300. "Java" is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Instructions for the operating system, the object-oriented operating system,

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

and applications or programs are located on storage devices, such as hard disk drive 326, and may be loaded into main memory 304 for execution by processor 302. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware in Figure 3 may vary depending on the implementation. Other internal hardware or peripheral devices, such as flash ROM (or equivalent nonvolatile memory) or optical disk drives and the like, may be used in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted in Figure 3. Also, the processes of the present invention may be applied to a multiprocessor data processing system.

As another example, data processing system 300 may be a stand-alone system configured to be bootable without relying on some type of network communication interface, whether or not data processing system 300 comprises some type of network communication interface. As a further example, data processing system 300 may be a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) device, which is configured with ROM and/or flash ROM in order to provide non-volatile memory for storing operating system files and/or user-generated data.

The depicted example in Figure 3 and above-described examples are not meant to imply architectural limitations. For example, data processing system 300 also may be a notebook computer or hand held computer in addition to taking the form of a PDA. Data processing system 300 also may be a kiosk or a Web appliance. The present invention provides a method, apparatus, and computer implemented instructions for using a printing subsystem to transmit data to a server, such as server

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

104 in Figure 1. Of course, the data transfer may be to any data processing system, such as from client 108 to client 110, or from server 104 to client 112 or storage 106. The mechanism of the present invention allows  
5 information from an application to be sent to a printer driver system, which extracts the relevant data, formats the data, and transmits the data to a destination. In this manner, no changes are needed to the application and the formatting is provided through a printer driver  
10 system.

Turning next to Figure 4, a diagram illustrating components used to transmit data from an application to a destination using a printer driver subsystem is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
15 invention. Printer driver subsystem 400 may be used in a data processing system, such as data processing system 200 or data processing system 300 to place data in an appropriate format for a destination.

In this example, printer driver subsystem 400  
20 includes a printer driver 402, a data extraction object 404, data processing objects 406-410, and formats and patterns 412-416. Printer driver subsystem receives a printer data stream 418 from application 420 and formats the data for use at data destination 422. In this  
25 example, application 420 may be a financial package, which does not provide an ability to export data in a format recognized by data destination 422. For example, an electronic invoice may be generated by application 420. According to the present invention, this invoice is  
30 printed to generate a printer data stream 418. This printer data stream is received by printer driver 402,

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

which examines printer data stream 418 to determine the data format of data within printer data stream 418.

A pattern is identified for use in data extraction by printer driver 402 from formats and patterns 412-416.

- 5 Printer data stream 418 is passed on to data extraction object 404, which uses the identified pattern to "scrape" or extract data from the printer data stream and prepare this data for processing.

- 10 Thereafter, this extracted data is then passed to a data processing object, such as data processing object 406, 408, or 410. The data processing object formats the extracted data and sends it to data destination 422. Each data processing object may be configured to format data into a particular format for a particular destination.
- 15 For example, data processing object 406 may generate an extensible markup language (XML) document while data processing object 408 generates a hypertext markup language (HTML) document. Further, data processing object 406 may send the formatted data to one server, while data
- 20 processing object 408 sends the formatted data to another server. Data destination 422 make take various forms. For example, this destination may be a local database or a remote server. On a remote server, a database, an enterprise Java bean, a servlet, an applet, or a script
- 25 may be the target within the server. The data processing object may communicate with these programs or processes to transfer the formatted data.

- In this example, the electronic invoice generated by application 420 is processed by printer driver 402 to
- 30 identify the format of data within printer data stream 418. A pattern is selected by printer driver 402 and

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

used by data extraction object 404 to extract the appropriate data from printer data stream 418. The pattern defines the format in which the extracted data should be stored for use in generating the appropriate output for the destination. The appropriate output is based on the format identified for printer data stream 418. In other words, data for the invoice is parsed out from printer-specific or printer formatting information in printer data stream 418. A data processing object, such as data processing object 406, formats the data into a form for use by data destination 422. The format is identified by printer driver 402 based on information within printer data stream 418. This format is the format that is to be used to send the data to data destination 422. For example, the data format may take a form of an extensible markup language (XML) document.

Turning next to Figure 5, an illustration of an invoice processed by the mechanism of the present invention is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Invoice 500 is an example of a document printed from a data stream sent to a printer, which would be generated by application 420 in Figure 4. In this example, data is sent to generate formatting, such as the rows and columns, as well as different font types in invoice 500. In this example, data found in fields 502-546 is identified by print driver 402 and extracted by data extraction object 404. Based on the data found in different fields, printer driver 402 may identify a format and pattern for use by data extraction object 404.

Turning next to Figure 6, data structure 600



Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

illustrates a pattern, which may be used to store data when the data is extracted from printer data stream 418 by data extraction object 404 in Figure 4. In this example, printer data stream 600 stores the data in various rows and columns for formatting by a data processing object, such as data processing object 406.

With reference now to Figure 7, an illustration of a pattern used for data extraction is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Pattern 700 illustrates fields that will be extracted when compared to data from a printer data stream. Pattern 700 may be defined graphically by a user highlighting fields in a graphical representation of a printer data stream such as printer data stream 600 in Figure 6. Alternatively, other mechanisms may be used to implement or represent a pattern. For example, text triplets, such as a line number, starting column, and length, may be used.

Turning next to Figure 8, a graphical representation of a pattern overlaying a printer stream is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this example, invoice 800 contains fields 802-836, which illustrate data that is to be extracted from an invoice such as that in printer data stream 600 in Figure 6 using pattern 700 in Figure 7.

With reference now to Figure 9, an illustration of a data structure containing data extracted from a printer data stream is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Data structure 900 contains data extracted from printer data stream 600 in Figure 6 using pattern 700 in Figure 7.

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

With reference now to **Figure 10**, a flowchart of a process used for processing a printer data stream is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The process shown in **Figure 10** may be  
5 implemented in printer driver **402** in **Figure 4**.

The process begins by receiving a printer data stream from an application (step **1000**). The data format is identified (step **1002**). For example, the string in INVOICE found in field **546** in **Figure 5** may be used to  
10 indicate that the target format is an electronic invoice. The identification of the customer in field **504** may be used to identify a preferred data interexchange format for the electronic invoice. Next, a pattern for data extractions is identified (step **1004**). The data may be  
15 stored in various formats, such as row/column list pairs associated with specific data and possibly associated with a specific data type. An example data structure is data structure **700** in **Figure 7**. The format definition for this data may be stored in different forms, such as  
20 extensible markup language (XML), text, or binary data. The identified format and pattern is sent to a data extraction object (step **1006**). This data extraction object is used to extract or "scrape" data from the printer data stream. The data extracted from the data  
25 stream is stored using the pattern identified for the particular format.

With reference now to **Figure 11**, a flowchart of a process used for extracting data is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
30 invention. The process illustrated in **Figure 11** may be implemented in data extraction object **404** in **Figure 4**.

The process begins by receiving a data format and pattern (step 1100). This data format and pattern is received from a print driver, such as print driver 402 in Figure 4. The printer data stream is then received (step 1102). Data is extracted from the printer data stream using the identified pattern (step 1104). The extracted data is prepared for processing (step 1106). In this step, the data extraction object uses the identified pattern to place extracted data from the printer data stream into specific locations and also may associate this data with a label. The associated data is kept in a collection with other associated data. This collection may be located in a data structure, such as data structure 900 in Figure 9. The data structure may take various forms such as, for example, an XML document, a hash table, and a binary record. If the extracted data is stored in a binary format such as a hash table or binary record, the extraction step performed by the data extraction object also may convert the data into non-textual types, such as integer or data, as appropriate.

The data is then sent to a data processing object for formatting (step 1108), with the process terminating thereafter. In this example, the data extraction object may send or select a particular data processing object from a set of data processing objects to send the data to a particular data destination.

Turning next to **Figure 12**, a flowchart of a process used for formatting and transmitting data is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The process illustrated in **Figure 12** may be

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

implemented in a data processing object, such as data processing object 406 in Figure 4.

The process begins by receiving data from the data extraction object (step 1200). The data is then  
5 formatted (step 1202). This format is based on the format identified by printer driver 402 in Figure 4. The formatted data is then sent to the destination (step 1204), with the process terminating thereafter. The formatting of data may differ depending on the particular  
10 data processing object used. For example, one data processing object may generate an XML document, while another data processing object generates an HTML document.

It is important to note that while the present  
15 invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning data processing system, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in the form of a computer readable medium of instructions and a variety of forms and that the present invention  
20 applies equally regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a  
25 hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog communications links, wired or wireless communications links using transmission forms, such as, for example, radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The  
30 computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

data processing system.

The description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, printer data driver 402 in Figure 4 may exclude the step of examining the printer data stream to identify a data format and select a pattern for data extraction. Instead, a particular printer driver may be configured for a particular data format. As a result, a user may select from different printer drivers for a particular data format. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

20

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for transferring printer data, the method comprising:  
receiving a printer data stream;  
identifying a format for the printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream;  
10 extracting data from the printer data stream to form extracted data  
formatting the extracted data into a format for a destination to form formatted data; and  
transmitting the formatted data to the destination.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving, identifying, formatting, extracting, and transmitting steps are performed in a printer driver subsystem.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is another data processing system.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the another data processing system is connected to one of a local area  
25 network, an intranet, and an Internet.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a program on the data processing system.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is one of a servlet, an applet, and a script.

7. A printer driver system comprising:  
a printer driver, wherein the printer driver receives a printer data stream and identifies a format of the data to form an identified format;  
5 a data extraction object, wherein the data extraction object receives the printer stream and uses the identified format to extract data from the printer data stream; and  
a data processing object, wherein the data processing object formats the extracted data to form formatted data and sends the formatted data to a destination.

10 8. The printer driver system of claim 7 further comprising:  
additional data processing objects, wherein the data processing object and the additional data processing objects are each configured to format data for a particular format.

20 9. The printer driver system of claim 7, wherein the data processing system object communicates with at least one of a servlet, an applet, and a script at the destination.

25 10. A data processing system comprising:  
a bus system;  
a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and  
30 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

instructions to receive a printer data stream, identify a format for a printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream, extract data from the printer data stream to form extracted data, format the extracted data into a format for a destination to form formatted data, and transmit the formatted data to the destination using the communications unit.

11. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

12. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

13. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

14. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

15. A data processing system for transferring printer data, the data processing system comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a printer data stream;  
identifying means for identifying a format for the printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream;  
extracting means for extracting data from the printer data stream to form extracted data  
formatting means for formatting the extracted data into a format for a destination to form formatted data;  
and



transmitting means for transmitting the formatted data to the destination.

17. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the  
10 destination is another data processing system.

15

19. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the destination is a program on the data processing system.

21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for transferring printer data, the computer program product comprising:

second instructions for identifying a format for the printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream;

```

30      third instructions for extracting data from the
printer data stream to form extracted data
      fourth instructions for formatting the extracted

```

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

data into a format for a destination to form formatted data; and

fifth instructions for transmitting the formatted data to the destination.

5

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0692-US1

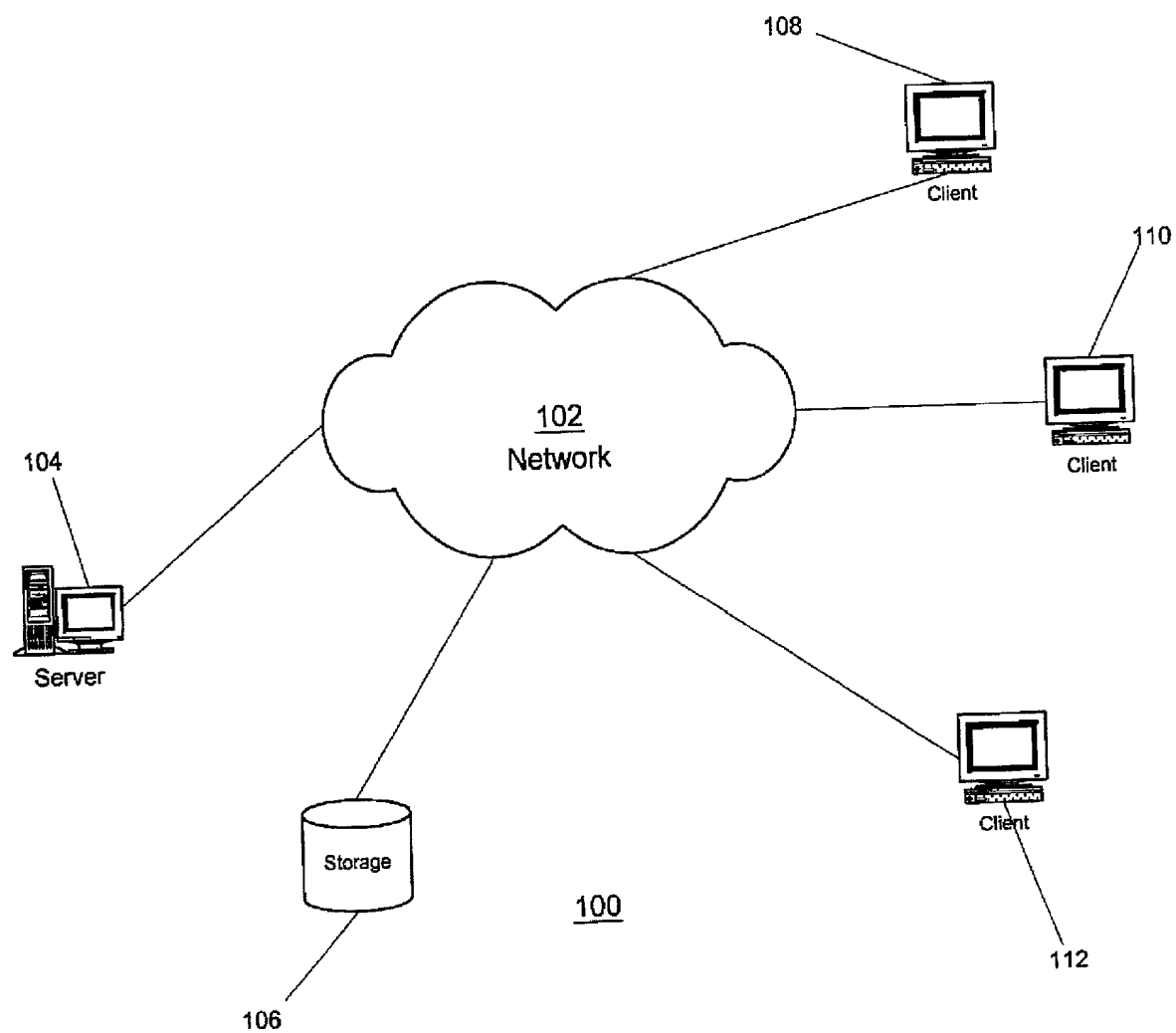
**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A PRINTING SYSTEM TO  
TRANSMIT DATA TO A SERVER**

A method and apparatus in a data processing system for transferring printer data. A printer data stream is received. A format is identified for the printer data stream in response to receiving the printer data stream. Data is extracted from the printer data stream to form extracted data. The extracted data is formatted into a format for a destination to form formatted data. The formatted data is transmitted to the destination.

### Figure 1

AUS9-2000-0692



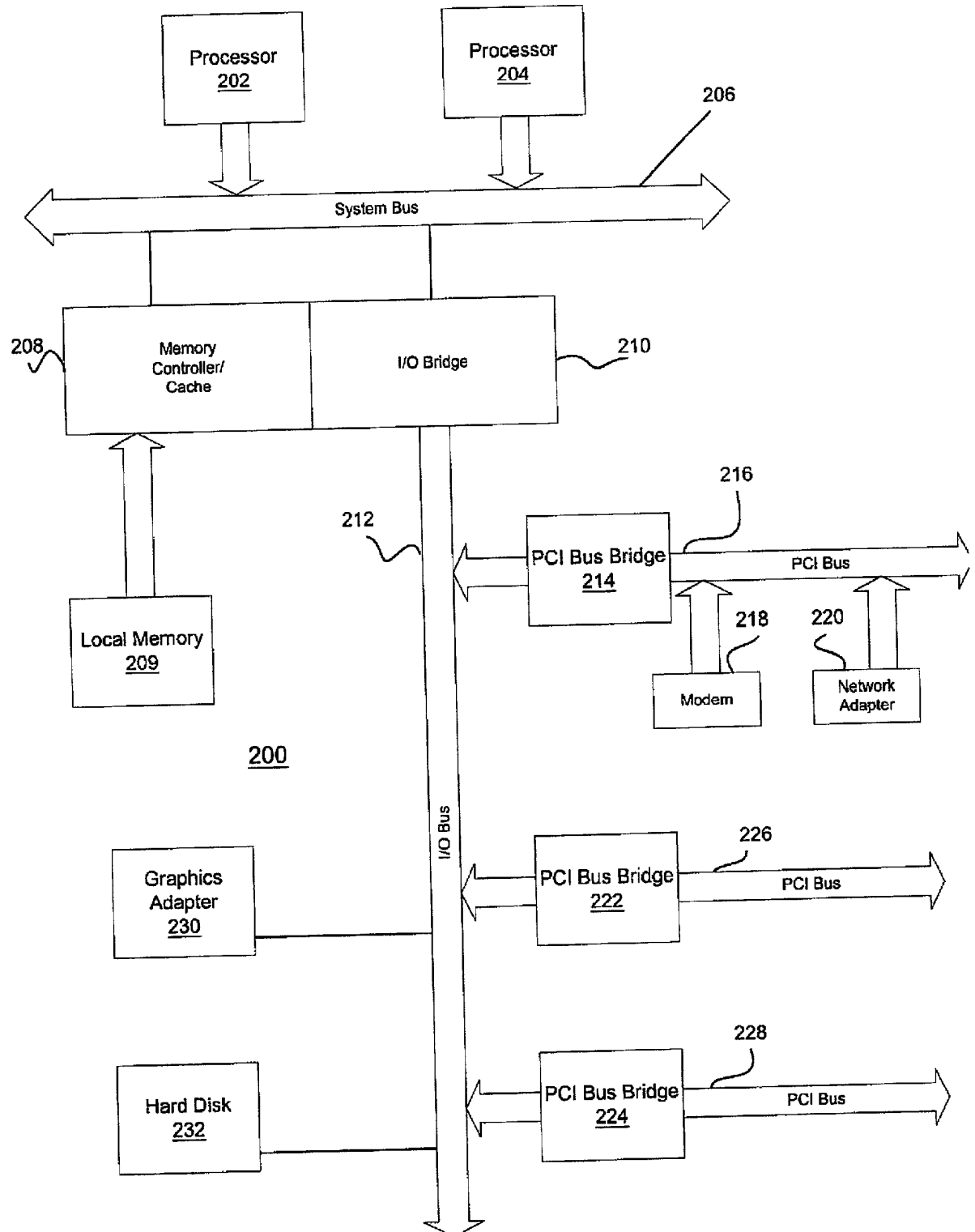


Figure 2

AUS9-2000-0692-US1

server

Client

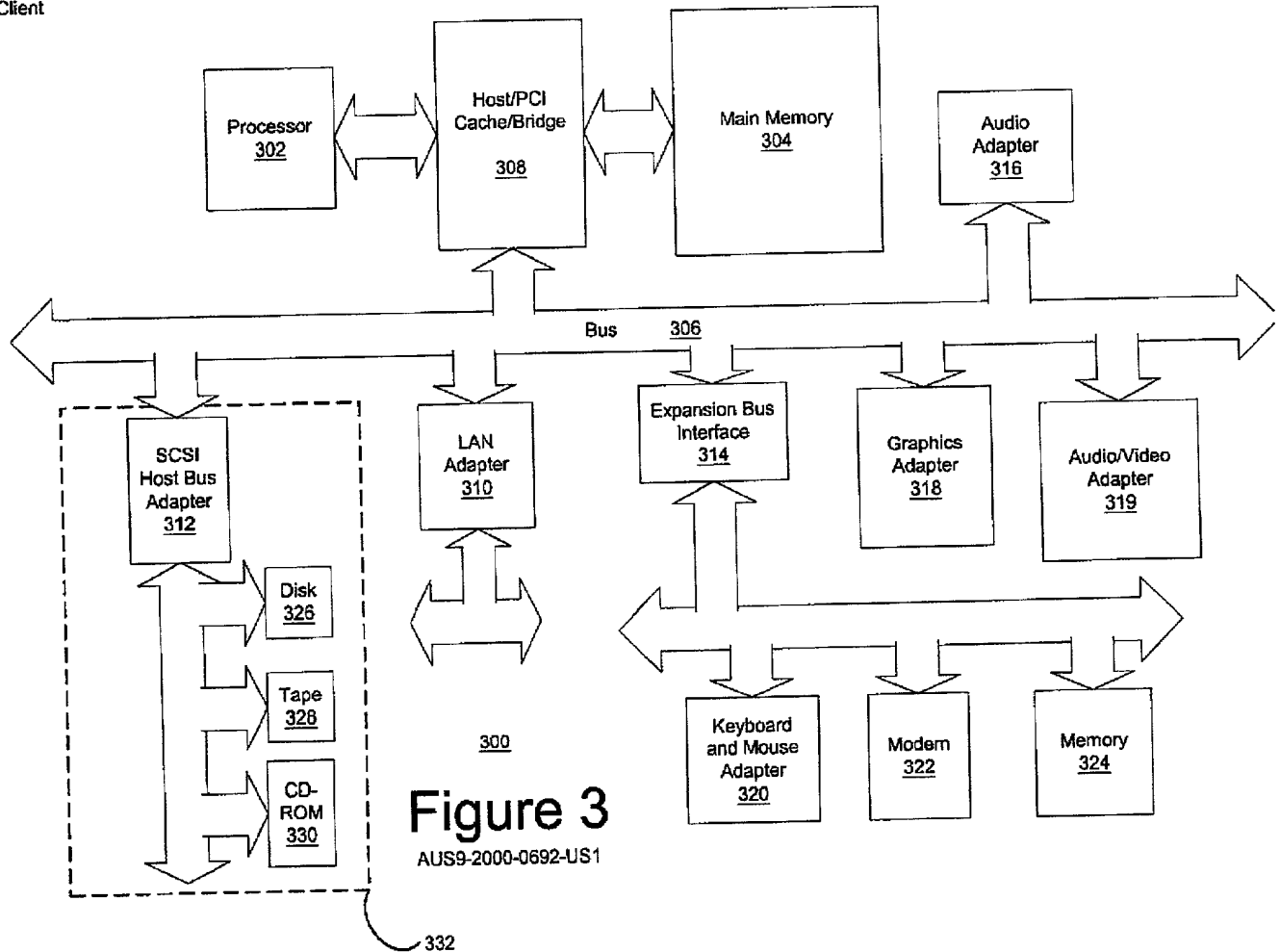
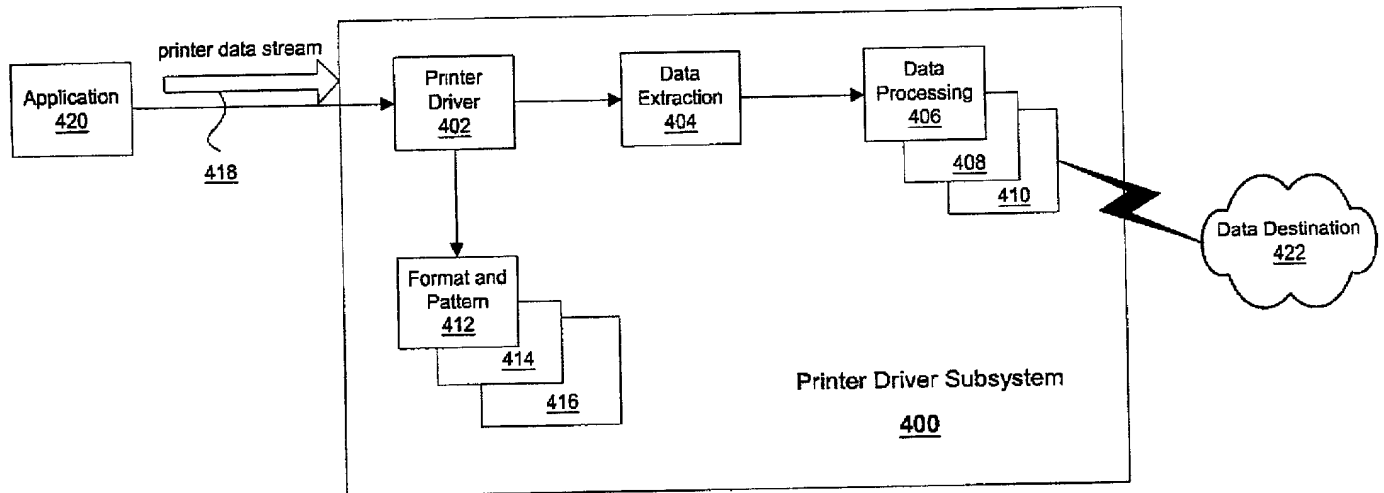


Figure 4

AUS9-2000-0692-US1



### Figure 5

AUS9-2000-0692-US1



My Small Business	PAGE	INVOICE	INVOICE	CUST.
FED. ID. NO. 11-2223344	NO.	NO.	DATE	NO.
18765 Oak Lane	1	A3ER2	9/3/00	39426
AnyTown USA				

S Some Customer  
O P.O Box 18976  
L OtherTown USA  
D

S Some Customer  
H ATTN: CUSTOMER REP  
I 18637 Ash Drive  
P Metropolis, USA

T  
O  
P.O. NO. Ship Via  
10985743 UPS GROUND

T  
O  
F.O.B                  Terms  
DESTINATION        NET 30

BUYER	DATE REQUIS	LOCATION	SALESPERSON	TERRITORY
JANE DOE	9/18/00	A3	JOHN SMITH	X32

Item No.	Description	Qty Ordered	Unit price	Total
A25-0109	#3 WIDGET MOUNT	37	\$12.50	\$462.50
A32-0452	#3 WIDGET	153	\$2.00	\$306.00
			Total:	\$762.50

Figure 6  
AUS9-2000-0692-US1

700

```
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXX  XXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXX  XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
```

INVOICE

```
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
```

XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX.XX XXXXXXX.XX  
<repeat previous pattern up to 24 times>

Figure 7

AUS9-2000-0692-US1

001211 " 6237/60

Figure 8

AUS9-2000-0692-US1

900

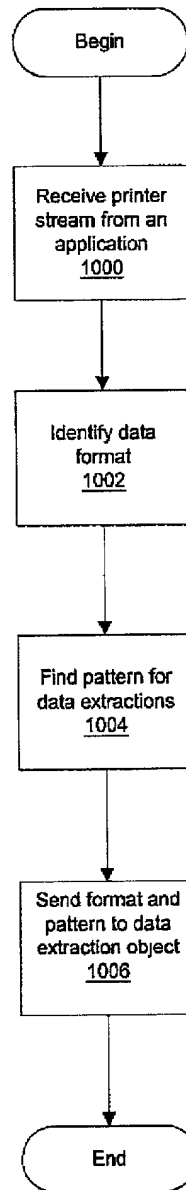
INVOICE NO	A3ER2
WORK ORDER NUMBER	MTYRH
INVOICE DATE	03 September 2000
CUSTOMER NO	39426
SUPPLIER_ADDRESS	
NAME	My Small Busines
LINE_1	18765 Oak Lane
CITY	AnyTown
COUNTRY	USA
SUPPLIER TAX ID	11-2223344
SOLD_TO	
NAME	Some Customer
LINE_1	P.O Box 18976
CITY	OtherTown
COUNTRY	USA
SHIP_TO	
NAME	Some Customer
LINE_1	ATTN: CUSTOMER REP
LINE_2	18637 Ash Drive
CITY	Metropolis
COUNTRY	USA
PO NUMBER	10985743
SHIP CODE	UPS GROUND
FOB	DESTINATION
TERMS	NET 30
BUYER	JANE DOE
DATE REQUESTED	18 September 2000
LOCATION	A3
SALESPERSON	JOHN SMITH
TERRITORY	X32
ITEM	
NUMBER	A25-0109
DESCRIPTION	#3 WIDGET MOUNT
QTY	37
UNIT_PRICE	12.50
TOTAL	462.5
ITEM	
NUMBER	A32-0452
DESCRIPTION	#3 WIDGET
QTY	153
UNIT_PRICE	2.00
TOTAL	306.00

Figure 9

AUS9-2000-0692-US1

Figure 10

AUS9-2000-0692-US1



09/13/2000 11:34:00

# Figure 11

AUS9-2000-0692-US1

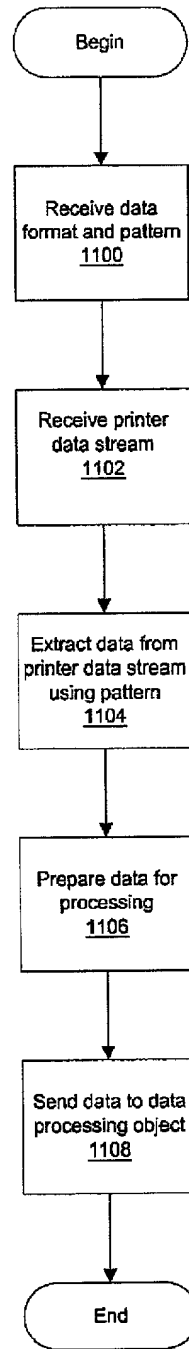
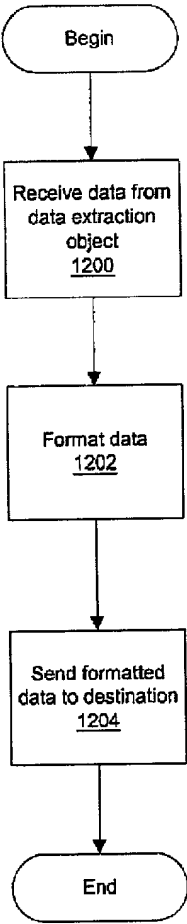


Figure 12  
AUS9-2000-0692-US1



**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR  
PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**Method and Apparatus for Using a Printing System to Transmit Data to a Server**

the specification of which (check one)

X is attached hereto.

— was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):	Priority Claimed
_____	_____ Yes _____ No
(Number)	(Country) (Day/Month/Year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial #)	(Filing Date)	(Status)

094664260



I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

John W. Henderson, Jr., Reg. No. 26,907; Thomas E. Tyson, Reg. No. 28,543; James H. Barksdale, Jr., Reg. No. 24,091; Casimer K. Salys, Reg. No. 28,900; Robert M. Carwell, Reg. No. 28,499; Douglas H. Lefevre, Reg. No. 26,193; Jeffrey S. LaBaw, Reg. No. 31,633; David A. Mims, Jr., Reg. 32,708; Volel Emile, Reg. No. 39,969; Anthony V. England, Reg. No. 35,129; Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196; Christopher A. Hughes, Reg. No. 26,914; Edward A. Pennington, Reg. No. 32,588; John E. Hoel, Reg. No. 26,279; Joseph C. Redmond, Jr., Reg. No. 18,753; Marilyn S. Dawkins, Reg. No. 31,140; Mark E. McBurney, Reg. No. 33,114; Duke W. Yee, Reg. No. 34,285; Colin P. Cahoon, Reg. No. 38,836; Stephen R. Loe, Reg. No. 43,757; Stephen J. Walder, Jr., Reg. No. 41,534; Charles D. Stepps, Jr., Reg. No. 45,880; Stephen R. Tkacs, Reg. No. 46,430, and Christopher P. O'Hagan, Reg. No. 46,966, Lisa L.B. Yociss, Reg. No. 36,975.

Send correspondence to: Duke W. Yee, Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP, P.O. Box 802334, Dallas, Texas 75380 and direct all telephone calls to Duke W. Yee, (972) 367-2001

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: Nathan Eugene Davis

INVENTORS SIGNATURE: Nathan Eugene Davis DATE: 17 November, 2000

RESIDENCE: 13145 New Boston Bend  
Austin, TX 78729-7534

CITIZENSHIP: United States

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: SAME AS ABOVE